POINS. O, that this good blossom could be kept from Cankers!—Well, there is sixpence to preserve thee.

BARD. An you do not make him be hanged among you, the gallows shall have wrong.

P. *HEN.* And how doth thy master, Bardolph?

BARD. Well, my lord. He heard of your grace's coming to town; there's a letter for you.

POINS. Delivered with good respect.—And how doth the martlemas, your master[3]?

BARD. In bodily health, sir.

POINS. Marry, the immortal part needs a physician: but that moves not him; though that be sick, it dies not.

P. HEN. I do allow this wen[4] to be as familiar with me as my dog: and he holds his place; for, look you, how he writes.

POINS. \/*Reads*^\ John Falstaff, *knight* >

Every man must know that, as oft as he has occasion to name himself. Even like those that are kin to the king: for they never prick their finger, but they say, *There is some of the King's blood spilt: How*

good Interpretation, is, if I remember right, the title of some old tract. MALONE

3 — the MARTLEMAS, your master?] That is, the autumn or rather the latter spring. The old fellow with juvenile passions. JOHNSON

In The First Part of King Henry IV. the Prince calls Falstaff "the latter spring,—all haliown summer." MALONE

Martlemas is corrupted from *Martinmas*, the feast of *St Martin*, the eleventh of November. The corruption is general in the old plays. So, in The Pinner of Wakefield, 1599.

"A piece of beef hung up since *Martlemas*." STEEVENS

[4] The martlemas your master." Martinmas, which in Shak-

speare's time fell later in the month than
it does now: was then
the chief time of killing hogs: this is
therefore only another of
the innumerable variations of allusion to
Falstaff's corpulence.

BLAKBWAY

* — this WEN —] This swoln
excrescence of a man.

JOHNSON.